

society. No one will be defended who was not a member at the time he treated the patient for the alleged malpractice and also at the time when the suit is brought; that means he must be continuously a member. All memberships terminate on December 31st, but all who were members on that date are carried as members till March 1st, at which time they are automatically dropped as from January 1st and when they pay up and their names and the amount of the assessment for them are sent in by the secretary of the county unit, then they are placed on the roll as from the date when the name and the money was received in the office of the State Society. They have lost their protection between the first of January of that year and the date when they are again put on the roll of members. Therefore it is important to see that your dues are paid promptly in January, when they are due. When any threat is made against a member or any claim for repayment of money or anything of that sort, it should be reported at once to the Secretary of the Society, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, Butler Building, San Francisco. When this is done it enables us to head off a good many suits that otherwise might be brought. When a suit is filed and the papers are served on a member, he must send them, or an exact copy, to the Secretary within 48 hours. We are not responsible, financially, for any unauthorized consultations with local lawyers. When our chief counsel cannot attend to cases personally, he arranges with a local attorney, after consultation with the defendant. Never answer any threatening letters from patients or lawyers; send them immediately to the secretary; be sure that your dues are always paid up; if you are served with papers in a suit, send them immediately to the secretary.

Could any rules be simpler? Suits are increasing rather than decreasing; there seems to be a craze to "sue the doctor"; are you protected? You do not and cannot know what day some disgruntled patient may sue you. It is much wiser to pay the few dollars a year your dues cost you than many hundreds or thousands of dollars it would cost you to defend a suit. Medical defense by the State Society is real defense; it defends.

A NEW MEDICAL (?) ORGAN FOR "SLAMMING."

Apparently there were not in existence enough so-called medical (?) journals living on fraudulent and deceitful advertising and so desirous of slamming the American Medical Association; a new publication has been started, but whether it will be parasitical and thrive on the nostrums is not yet certain; it is young, very young, and its circulation is bound to be small, very small. It is the *Journal of the American Medical Editors' Association*, that highly upright and cleanly organization of which mention has been made before, in the pages of the JOURNAL. Vol. I, No. 2, is the issue under present observation and it contains three separate items that are intended to be deliberate slams at the Association. Two of them

relate to the row that Lydston has tried for years, very ineffectually, to start in the Association. He tried to get the public prosecutor in Chicago to take legal action against the Association to have its present form of organization dissolved. The public prosecutor would not do this so action was taken against him to compel him to do it; he was sustained and the case then taken on appeal; the appellate court reversed the lower court and ordered the case against the public prosecutor tried. This decision of the appellate court has been appealed to the supreme court of Illinois by the public prosecutor. The case has not come near the Association at all; if the supreme court should decide that the public prosecutor must proceed against the Association, why then there would be a suit against the Association. As some of the best lawyers in Chicago incorporated the Association, and then studied the matter out very carefully and reincorporated under the present form of organization, it does not seem likely that a suit will ever be won dissolving the present form of organization. But if such should be the case, what does it mean? Merely that the Association will have to reform in some other manner and one conforming to the construction of the laws that the courts may put upon them. And this is the terrible thing that has happened to the Association—according to its not-too-clean-handed enemies! We wish this new medical (?) journal as long a life and as successful a career as its honorable and upright intentions and its honesty of policy may entitle it to receive.

A SUGGESTION FOR HELP.

The Santa Barbara County Medical Society publishes a printed announcement and program of meetings which is sent out to the members a week or ten days in advance. This is an excellent idea in itself, but it was not the particular thing in mind. A few months ago the Secretary very thoughtfully printed in this announcement, a list of laboratories and biological depots advertising in the STATE JOURNAL. Will not every county society that issues a bulletin or prints an announcement, from time to time give a list of a number of different advertisers in some line of activity or another, which advertise in the JOURNAL? Will the editors of those bulletins be good enough to call attention to the fact that members may very often save money by buying what they need from our advertisers rather than by sending to some eastern house for the article? Two instances of an actual saving of this sort—or rather, a saving that was not!—are referred to in another editorial note in this issue. Nearly everything that you may want to purchase can be secured from some advertiser in your JOURNAL and by trading with him you are returning the compliment he has paid to you by placing an advertisement in your JOURNAL. We wish to thank Dr. Barry and the Santa Barbara County Medical Society for their courtesy and their good sense and it is sincerely to be hoped that other societies will follow the same good example.